Draft ISPCP response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the US Department of Commerce on the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions.

The Internet Service Providers and Connectivity providers, welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Further Notice of Enquiry on the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the US Department of Commerce (Docket N° 110207099-1319-02),

ISPCP believes that **the management of the IANA functions should transition from a Government oversight contractual responsibility to that of an independent organization**. ISPCP believes that ICANN is best served to oversee the IANA functions. Assuming that it has complied with all transparency and accountability obligations as set out in the Affirmation of Commitments.

ISPCP acknowledges the fact that the Internet benefited in its early stages and growth from a number of elements that guaranteed its stability. The role of the US Government was one of these elements. From some years now, however, the Internet has turned into a mature global medium supporting worldwide innovation, economic growth, and beyond as recent events demonstrated. We have also witnessed a distinct improvement in the performance of the IANA functions. In parallel, ICANN has grown into the multi-stakeholder organisation we know today where all relevant parties, including governments, have their say in the consensus-driven process. In this context, the historic role of the United States Government with regards to the IANA function is no longer relevant or sustainable. Quite the contrary, **ISPCP believes that maintaining that role over the IANA function would be reinforcing what may now be perceived as a questionable control from one government over the Internet as a whole and, in the end, would be a factor of instability for the Internet**.

ISPCP fully agrees that preserving a stable and secure Internet Domain Name System (DNS) and management of IP addresses is a top priority for all stakeholders and the IANA function is critical in that context.

ISPCP is in agreement with the NTIA on a number of the principles and proposals contained in this consultation, and notably that:
- IANA's three core functions remain bundled.
- A public consultation be conducted on the opportunity to transition the .INT TLD.
- There must be a functional separation between the processing of the IANA functions and the development of associated policies.

From the process point of view, however, **ISPCP is concerned that all these issues and potential consultations be conducted by the NTIA and not ICANN** as a multi-stakeholders international organization: these proposals could indeed be introduced by the NTIA through the Governmental Advisory Committee. The ISPCP believes

maintaining that historic role, be it through consultations or not, can only foster instability for the Internet.

ISPCP also has strong concerns that the IANA function, which is and must remain technical by nature, be used by the IANA contractor or the NTIA to verify or revisit decisions made on gTLDs delegations: depending on the nature of the gTLD, these delegations result from evaluations and consensus among relevant stakeholders or from evaluations of the global public interest. The ISPCP recognises there are multiple organisations involved in developing policies that relate to different resources administered by IANA and those responsibilities need to be maintained and documented in a much better way. Implementation of those policy decisions should remain under the final responsibility of the ICANN Board of Directors, as the last technical step to delegation and be executed in accordance with Board decisions. The ISPCP considers that even if the intent is not to 'misuse' the IANA function for such a purpose, the mere fact that with the current situation such a risk exists, does impact the gTLD delegation process.

Finally it is the view of the ISPCP that as part of the required change there is still a need to seek improvements that will provide additional feedback and performance reporting, thereby creating additional confidence and stability in the new environment.